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ACTION FA-12
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
I-03 NSAF-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-08 COMF-00 TRSE-00 /073 W
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY BAFlak DATE 2/12/80

P R 2108392 SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6558
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD
E.O. 11652: N A
TAGS: SOPN PINT KS US
SUBJ: KOREAN PRESS COVERAGE OF PAK TONG-SON CASE
REF: SEOUL 7995 (DTG 200908Z SEP 77)
SUMMARY: KORFAN PRFSS RFPOPTS LACK OF PROGRFSS ON PAK CASE IN MEETING OF FORFIGN MINISTFRS, NOTING LACK OF FLEXIBILITY IN U.S. POSITION. SOME ATTENTION IS DIRECTFD TO PPESIDFNT CARTEF'S NFWS CONFERENCE TOMOFROW AND TO WHFTHFR FONMINS MEFT AGAIN. FND SUMMARY.
1. ON SEPTEMBER 21, KOREAN VFRNACULAR PRESS GAVE FRONT-PAGE COVFRAGF TO STORIFS FROM THEIR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS ON 9/20 MFFTING BETWEFN FONMIN PAK TONG-JIN AND SECSTATE VANCF. COVFRAGF IN MORNING PAPFRS, FSPECIALLY HAN'GUK ILBO, WAS HOPFFUL THAT COMPROMISE ON PAK TONG-SON CASE WOULD BF FEACHED, BUT AFTFRNOON PRESS GAVE FRONT-PAGE. SFCOND TREATMENT TO ARTICLES OUTLINING LACK OF PROGRFSS. TONGA ILBO HEADLINE: "KORFA-U.S. COMPROMISE FAILS."
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2. MORNING CHOSON ILBO'S KIM TAF-JUNG, QUOTING U.S. NEWSPAPERS AND LEADING CONGRESSMFN BEFORF MEETING, NOTED U.S. VIFW THAT "PAK MUST BF EXTRADITED", ESPECIALLY STATFMFNTS BY SENATOR STEVENSON, CHAIRMAN OF SENATF FTHICS COMMITTFF, THAT "KOREA'S UNCOOPERATIVE POSITION IS PROVOCATIVF AND UNPRODUCTIVF" AND THAT SENATF WOULD START ITS OWN INVESTIGATION INTO PAK SCANDAL. "INFORMED SOURCES" ALSO TOLD KIM THAT MOST IMPORTANT THING IN U.S. INVESTIGATIONS IS THAT PAK PPOVIDE A "FREE AND THOROUGH EXPOSURE OF THF WHOLF CASF," WHICH KIM EXPLAINED MFANT NO ROK OFFICIALS PRESFNT WHFN PAK MEETS U.S. INVESTIGATORS. KIM'S ARTICLF AISO GIVES FXTRACTS FROM WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL TO EFFECT THAT ISSUE IN SOLUTION OF PAK AFFAIF IS U.S. PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR ALL U.S. COMMITMFNTS AND PROMISES TO KORFA. EDIT NOTFS THAT SENATOR MCGOVERN'S SUGGESTION FOR RELATIONS WITH NORTH KORFA DOFS NOT RFPRESFNT CONSIDERFD VIEWS OF U.S. PEOPLE BUT DOES ACCURATELY RFFLECT MOOD IN WASHINGTON CAUSED BY KORFA'S COVERUP OF PAK AFFAIR.
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POST CONCLUDES THAT HARDENING OF THIS MOOD WOULD NOT BE IN KOREA'S INTEREST. ARTICLE SAYS.

3. AFTERNOON PRESS REPORTED THAT TWO FONMINS FAILED TO FIND COMPROMISE PLAN TO SOLVE PAK AFFAIR. TONGA ILBO, NOTING SECSTATE VANCE HAD ASKED AGAIN FOR PAK'S RETURN, REMARKED ON LACK OF FLEXIBILITY OR RELAXATION IN PREVIOUS U.S. POSITION. SEVERAL PAPERS NOTED THAT FONMIN PAK HAD EXPRESSED HOPE U.S. WOULD ADVANCE SEVERAL ALTERNATIVES FOR COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT, BUT THERE WAS NO U.S. RESPONSE. SEVERAL STORIES QUOTED "SOURCES" AS SAYING THAT FONMIN PAK HINTED THAT ROKG HOPES FOR DISPATCH OF U.S. INVESTIGATORS TO SEOUL, BUT AGAIN THE U.S. AVOIDED ANSWERING. TONGA ARTICLE SAID "ATTENTION IS CENTERED" ON WHETHER THIS MARKS

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END OF CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN FONMINS, OR WHETHER MEETING IS CONTINUED IN NEW YORK AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED. KYONGHYANG SINMUN HINTED THAT FONMIN PAK EXPRESSED GRATITUDE THAT U.S., IN PROCESS OF CONVEYING ITS HARD-LINE POSITION ON PAK AFFAIR, HAD NOT MADE "A CERTAIN SORT OF STATEMENT." (COMMENT: PRESUMABLY THIS IS A REFERENCE TO LACK OF USG PUBLIC THREATS TO CUT OFF MILITARY OR ECONOMIC AID IF KOREA DID NOT TURN OVER PAK TONG-SON). SAME ARTICLE PORTRAYED FONMIN PAK AS "STRONGLY HINTING" THAT PAK CASE WILL NOT LAST INTO NEXT YEAR.

5. IN A SMALL ARTICLE, KYONGHYANG NOTED THAT STATE DEPARTMENT BROKE PRECEDENT BY NOT SENDING ANYONE TO AIRPORT TO MEET FONMIN PAK. SHORT WIRE SERVICE ITEMS IN SEOUL SINMUN NOTE PRESIDENT CARTER MET DEMOCRATIC LEADERS 9/20 AND SAID KOREA HAS BEEN "NO HELP SO FAR" IN SENDING PAK BACK AND THAT CARTER WILL HAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE 9/21 WHICH WILL ADDRESS PAK TONG-SON AFFAIR, AMONG OTHER TOPICS.

6. NO EDITORIALS OR OTHER COMMENTS HAVE YET APPEARED ON MEETINGS AT STATE DEPARTMENT. NOR IS THERE ANY MENTION OF A PRESS CONFERENCE BY PAK TONG-SON'S LAWYER HUNDLEY.

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